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REMARKS**INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 4 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, 13, and 14 are pending and under consideration.

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW:

On October 18, 2004, Applicant's representative, Michael A. Bush, conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner of Record, Catherine A. Simone. In the interview, the participants discussed the cited references: Onoki (U.S. Patent No. 4,883,548), and a Japanese reference, also to Onoki (JP 02-130519).

Applicants asserted that neither Onoki reference disclosed any variation in the adhesive layer (4), and that the resin layer and base member referred to by the Examiner are, respectively, first and second plastic lens elements 2 and 3, which are separately manufactured, and then later joined using the adhesive layer 4.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

In the Office Action, at page 2, item 4, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-10, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Onoki (U.S. Patent No. 4,883,548 – hereinafter "Onoki-US"). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

In the Office Action, at page 4, item 5, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-10, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Onoki (JP 02-130519 – hereinafter "Onoki-JP"). The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. Applicants traverse this rejection and respectfully request reconsideration.

Amended, independent claims 1 and 2 recite: "[a] resin-cemented optical element comprising a base member and a resin layer molded on a surface of the base member...."

And amended, independent claims 13 and 14 recite: "[a] resin-cemented optical element, comprising: a resin layer molded on a surface of a base member...."

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Onoki-US discloses first and second plastic lens elements 2 and 3 (and 2a-2f, and 3a-3f). The Examiner appears to assert that the first and second lens elements 2 and 3 correspond, respectively, to the resin layer and the base member of the subject application. Applicants respectfully disagree.

In Onoki-US, the first lens element 2 is prepared by pouring a mixture into a mold consisting of a glass mold and a resin gasket, slowly heating the mixture and mold, to polymerize the mixture. After the polymerization, the glass mold and the resin gasket are removed. The second lens element 3 is similarly prepared. (See Onoki-US, at col. 3, lines 11-39).

Additionally, while Onoki-US does not disclose what reference number 4 represents in FIGS. 1, and 4-9, reference number 4 appears to represent the adhesive resin used to join the first and second lens elements 2 and 3, subsequent to the respective preparation of first and second lens elements 2 and 3. (See Onoki-US, at col. 6, lines 39-42). Onoki-US does not disclose any variation in a thickness of the adhesive layer.

Further, the figures in Onoki-JP appear to be identical to the figures of Onoki-US, and the translated Abstract of Onoki-JP discloses a first lens element 2 made of polycarbonate resin and a second lens element made of plastic or glass, which are cemented together. Onoki-JP does not disclose any variation in a thickness of the adhesive layer.

In contrast, the resin layer of the subject application is molded on the base member, not separately prepared, and then subsequently joined to the base member. Instead, a resin-cemented optical element comprising a base member and a resin layer molded on a surface of the base member in accordance with the invention of the present application is a breakthrough technique which is able to be realized owing to the invention of the present application.

A non-limiting example of the resin-cemented optical element of the present invention, is an aspheric PAG (plastic adhesion glass) lens in which both primary surfaces of the lens have varying curvatures, and the lens has a maximum thickness not previously achievable. (See Specification, for example, at page 2, line 22 – page 3, line 2).

Applicants respectfully submit the neither Onoki-US nor Onoki-JP disclose or suggest a resin-cemented optical element comprising "...a base member and a resin layer molded on a surface of the base member...."

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 2, 13, and 14 patentably distinguish over the cited art, and should be allowable for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

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Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 5-7, 9, and 10 which ultimately depend from either independent claim 1 or independent claim 2, should be allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 2, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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